



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

3d Battalion (Training Support) (Engineer), 3/364<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
4<sup>th</sup> BRIGADE, 91<sup>ST</sup> DIVISION (TRAINING SUPPORT)  
BOX 339500, MAIL STOP 100  
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON 98433-9500

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

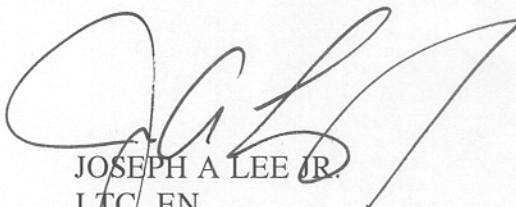
AFKR-TCA-TSL-HQ

21 May 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Bruce A. Park, Director F&ES Assistant Chief of Installation Management ACSIM, Facilities Policy Facilitation Engineer Team, Attn: DAIM-FDF-FE (Attn: Bruce A. Park-PE) Alexandria, Va. 22315-3800

SUBJECT: Nomination of SFC Celestino (Rick) Herrera Jr., Military Fire Officer of the Year 2002

1. With great pleasure I nominate SFC Celestino (Rick) Herrera Jr. for the Military Fire Officer of the Year Award 2002. Nomination is based on the attached justification.
2. POC is Chief Scotty Freeman at (253) 966-2616 or via email [freemans@lewis.army.mil](mailto:freemans@lewis.army.mil)



JOSEPH A LEE JR.  
LTC, EN  
Commanding

**2002 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**SFC CELESTINO (RICK) HERRERA JR., FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS** – *Awarded for Selfless Achievements*

- Served as Military Fire Chief and liaison for the Camp Darby and Vicenza, Fire and Emergency Services, Italy
- Served as Chief Instructor for the DOD Louis F. Garland Fire Academy, Goodfellow AFB, Tx.
- One of only two 51M's Army-wide to achieve the IFSAC certification of Fire Officer IV.
- Currently assigned as 5<sup>th</sup> Army's Center of Excellence Senior Observer Controller Trainer for 14 National Guard and Reserve 51M units.
- Presently serving in a Battalion Sergeant Major (E-9) position as a Sergeant First Class (E-7).
- Awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal Award
- Awarded the Army Commendation Medal
- Awarded the Army Achievement Award
- Awarded the US Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Awarded the Kosovo Campaign Medal
- Awarded the Army Master Instructor Badge
- Awarded the Air Force Master Instructor Badge

**JOB PERFORMANCE** – *Self-Motivated Leader*

- Serves as the 5<sup>th</sup> Army's pivotal vocal point for all 51M fire fighting issues.
- While assigned at Camp Darby he trained and led 28 multi-service volunteer firefighters to various emergencies ranging from motor vehicle accidents to the bombing of a Post Office without a single firefighter incident.
- As an Instructor for the DOD Louis F. Garland Fire Academy, he was constantly asked by newly graduated firefighters to pin on their badges; the highest honor for any instructor.
- Brigade Safety NCO and Fire Marshal for the Center of Excellence, Ft. Lewis, Wa.

**TECHNICAL COMPETENCE** – *Outstanding Trustee of Technical Competence*

- Highly skilled fire officer having the following IFSAC certifications: Fire Officer IV; Fire Instructor III; Haz-Mat Operations Train the Trainer Technician with ICS; Fire Inspector II; to include all implied qualifications.
- Honor Graduate from the DOD Louis F. Garland Fire Academy Fire Inspector II Course.
- Coordinated 9 weeks of intensive mobilization training for 24 Army Reserve fire fighters preparing to deploy.
- Selected to oversee the testing of the new Tactical Fire fighting Truck for 5<sup>th</sup> Army's COE, Ft. Lewis, Wa.

**LEADERSHIP ABILITY** – *Strength thru Leadership*

- Presently assigned and being rated as a Battalion Sergeant Major for the 5<sup>th</sup> US Army Fire Fighting Center of excellence, Ft. Lewis, Wa. First ever for a fire fighter to achieve.
- Assigned as Senior Observer Controller Trainer responsible for the training and deployment ready of 14 National Guard and Reserve units located throughout CONUS.
- As Chief Instructor at the DOD Fire Academy he mentored and led instructors to ensure only the best instructed and only the best graduated.
- Ensured and demanded his subordinates have the training and skills necessary to do the job right the first time.
- Assigned as Asst. Fire Chief, Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii

**INITIATIVE** – *Committed to the Preservation of Life*

- While assigned as Chief Instructor he established the first ever Master Sergeant (E-8) position at the Fire Academy.
- A highly motivated fire officer strengthens job knowledge of the fire fighting tactics and strategies through self-enhancement programs offered by the International Fire Service Training Association.
- Completed a Degree in Fire Science through his self-initiative and self-discipline.
- Co-established new guidelines and standards for the 2500L MACI fire truck safety modifications, this was evident as his name appeared in the March 2003 Countermeasure magazine as a point of contact for the MACI.

**RESOURCEFULNESS** – *Committed Advocate of Maximizing Resources*

- Represented the United States Army firefighters and enhanced community relations with the city of San Angelo Texas, by assisting in the cleanup and restoration in the aftermath of a devastating tornado.
- Has supported the surrounding communities where assigned with various participation in parades; static displays; and charitable events to include Christmas in April and Habitat for Humanity.
- Displays selfless service and total dedication to duty, consistently placing soldiers and fire fighters above his own well being while effectively projecting a positive image of a fire officer and a NCO in the US Army.
- Member of the Fellowship of Christian Fire fighters Association.